

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09146 241730Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05  
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02  
FEAE-00 OMB-01 /110 W

-----077724 241742Z /50

P R 241605Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9111

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9146

DEPT PASS TREASURY (FAC/SOMMERFIELD)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, UR, RH

SUBJECT: USSR AND RHODESIAN CHROME

REFS: (A) STATE 144018, (B) STATE 143083, (C) LUXEMBOURG 0421,  
(D) MOSCOW 7467, (E) LUXEMBOURG 0402, (F) STATE 117740,  
(G) LUXEMBOURG 356 ALL NOTAL

SUMMARY: WE HAVE BROUGHT CERTIFICATION OF  
EXPORTS OF SOVIET FERROCHROMIUM TO ATTENTION OF CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT). NEITHER  
OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE SPOKE HAD ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THIS  
MATTER AND ACCEPTED DEPARTMENT'S DESIRED PARAGRAPH FOR  
PURPOSE OF REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION. CHIEF OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES  
SECTION OF MFT STATED THAT IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW SIMPLE  
CERTIFICATION THAT SOVIET FERROCHROMIUM IS MADE OF CHROME  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 09146 241730Z

ORE OF EXCLUSIVELY SOVIET ORIGIN SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT. HE  
STATED THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS WILL BE SUSPICIOUS OF OUR MOTIVATION  
IN ASKING ADDITIONAL STATEMENT THAT SOVIETS IMPORT NO ORE OF  
RHODESIAN ORIGIN, AS SUPERFLUOUS AND POLITICAL NATURE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 22, E/C COUNSELOR CALLED ON MIKHAIL V. NAZAROV,  
CHIEF OF THE GOODS SUPERINTENDENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE USSR

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TO REQUEST SOVIET COOPERATION IN PROGRAM TO PREVENT IMPORTATION INTO US OF RHODESIAN CHROME ORE AND OF FERROCHROMIUM OR SPECIALTY STEEL MADE OF SUCH ORE. CALL WAS MADE ON NAZAROV BECAUSE CHAMBER HAD REFERRED US TO HIM AND BECAUSE HIS DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GUARANTEE AND CERTIFICATION OF QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF GOODS, INCLUDING INSPECTION TO ENSURE CONFORMITY WITH CONTRACT. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT NAZAROV WAS NOT INFORMED OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE CASE, HOWEVER, AND WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PREVIOUS CONTACT BETWEEN THE CHAMBER AND THE SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION PROMSYRIOIMPORT (WHICH TRADES IN FERROALLOYS), COUNSELOR SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE TO ENSURE FULL AND ADEQUATE ATTENTION FOR SOVIET GOVERNMENT THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTED LANGUAGE.

2. IN PRESENTING LANGUAGE OF DESIRED CERTIFICATION (PARA 2((E)) OF REFTEL B) TO NAZAROV, COUNSELOR STRESSED THAT OUR INTEREST IN ELIMINATION OF SUCH IMPORTS WAS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD ALREADY SOLICITED THE COOPERATION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER STATES TOWARDS THIS END. HE LEFT NAZAROV COPY OF PROPOSED TEXT AND ALSO MENTIONED DESIRABILITY OF SOVIET STATEMENT ON NON-IMPORTATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN ORE OR FERROCHROMIUM. NAZAROV GAVE COURTEOUS HEARING TO THIS EXPOSITION AND PROMISED TO PASS PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO LEGAL DIVISION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE INDICATED THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE AN EARLY RESPONSE FOR US ON  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 09146 241730Z

THE QUESTION OF CERTIFICATION.

3. IN VIEW OF CHAMBER OFFICIAL'S UNFAMILIARITY WITH ISSUE AND BECAUSE CERTIFICATION OF THIS NATURE WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE REGARDED AS HIGHLY POLITICAL QUESTION BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT, COUNSELOR BROUGHT MATTER TO ATTENTION OF NIKOLAY ZINOV'YEV, CHIEF OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE, ON JUNE 23, MAKING SAME CASE AS WITH NAZAROV. HE PRESENTED SAME DRAFT TEXT FOR ZINOV'YEV FOR CONSIDERATION BY MFT. ZINOV'YEV ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUE BUT RECALLED HAVING RECENTLY HEARD IN US (DURING MEETING OF US/SOVIET JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION) VARIOUS REPORTS ABOUT ALLEGED SOVIET IMPORTS OF RHODESIAN CHROME ORE. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE WAS A BIT DELICATE. WHILE HE DID NOT WANT TO ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTIES, HE FELT THAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP MIGHT BE UNWILLING TO AGREE TO STATE ON ALL OF ITS FERROCHROMIUM EXPORTS THAT IT IMPORTS NO CHROME ORE FROM RHODESIA. THIS MIGHT STRIKE SOME PEOPLE, IN HIS VIEW, AS HAVING A "POLITICAL" OVERTONE. THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE NO TROUBLE IN CERTIFYING THAT SOVIET  
  
FERROCHROMIUM EXPORTS WERE MADE EXCLUSIVELY OF ORE OF SOVIET

ORIGIN, BUT THE CERTIFICATION OF NON-IMPORTATION OF RHODESIAN CHROME ORE ON EACH EXPORT SHIPMENT OF ORE OR FERROCHROMIUM BY THE USSR SEEMED SUPERFLUOUS. IF THE USSR IS WILLING TO STATE THAT ITS EXPORTS OF FERROCHROMIUM ARE COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF SOVIET CHROME ORE, HE FAILED TO SEE WHAT WAS ADDED BY THE STATEMENT THAT THE USSR IMPORTS NO CHROME ORE FROM RHODESIA. ZINOV'YEV EMPHASIZED THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS NO EXPERT ON THE SUBJECT, THAT IS THE QUESTION WHICH OTHERS IN MFT WILL PUT TO HIM. AS FAR AS HE WAS INFORMED, THE USSR AT PRESENT IMPORTS NO CHROME ORE AT ALL AND THEREFORE NONE FROM RHODESIA (OR SOUTH AFRICA). ZINOV'YEV INQUIRED WHETHER USG EXPECTED THIS CERTIFICATION TO BE PLACED ON ALL SOVIET EXPORTS OR MERELY THOSE TO US. ON BEING INFORMED THAT WE WISHED IT TO BE ON ALL SOVIET EXPORTS OF FERROCHROMIUM, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 09146 241730Z

ZINOV'YEV EXPRESSED VIEW THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND THAT USG WANTED A CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN ON SOVIET EXPORTS TO US THAN ON THOSE TO THE WORLD IN GENERAL.

4. WE EXPECT TO BE HEARING REACTIONS SHORTLY FROM CHAMBER AND MFT AND WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED.

TOON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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